

List of war deities

A **war god** in mythology associated with war, combat, or bloodshed. They occur commonly in both monotheistic and polytheistic religions.

Unlike most gods and goddesses in polytheistic religions, monotheistic deities have traditionally been portrayed in their mythologies as commanding war in order to spread religion. (The intimate connection between "holy war" and the "one true god" belief of monotheism has been noted by many scholars, including Jonathan Kirsch in his book *God Against The Gods: The History of the War Between Monotheism and Polytheism* and Joseph Campbell in *The Masks of God*, Vol. 3: *Occidental Mythology*).^{[1][2]}

The following is a list of war deities:

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Mars, the Roman god of war



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References

Africa

North Africa

Berber

- Gurzil, bull-headed warrior god.^[3]
- Ifri, war goddess

Egyptian

- Anhur, god of war, not a native god
- Bast, cat-headed goddess associated with war, protection of Lower Egypt and the pharaoh, the sun, perfumes, ointments, and embalming
- Horus, god of the king, the sky, war, and protection
- Maahes, lion-headed god of war
- Menhit, goddess of war, "she who massacres"
- Montu, falcon-headed god of war, valor, and the Sun
- Neith, goddess of war, hunting, and wisdom
- Pakhet, goddess of war
- Satis, deification of the floods of the Nile River and an early war, hunting, and fertility goddess
- Sekhmet, goddess of warfare, pestilence, and the desert
- Set, god of the desert and storms, associated with war
- Sobek, god of the Nile, the army, military, fertility, and crocodiles
- Sopdu, god of the scorching heat of the summer sun, associated with war
- Wepwawet, wolf-god of war and death who later became associated with Anubis and the afterlife

Sub-Saharan Africa

Nilo-Saharan

Nubian

- Apedemak, Nubian lion-headed warrior god.

Western African-Congo

Yoruba

- Kokou
- Ogoun
- Oya

Eastern African-Congo

Igbo

- Amadioha
- Ekwensu

Ethiopian

- Maher, god of war.

Kenya

Kalenjin

- Boryet, Kipsigis Death-wielding god of war. Boryet (also luket) is the act of war. Death (Me'et) is observed as a consequence of war. War is thus personified as such.

Europe

Balto-Slavic

Baltic

- Kara Māte, Latvian goddess of war
- Kauriraris, Lithuanian god of war and war steeds
- Junda, Lithuanian goddess of war

Slavic

- Jarovit, god of vegetation, fertility, and spring, also associated with war and harvest
- Perun, god of thunder and lightning, associated with war
- Svetovid, god of war, fertility, and abundance
- Zorya Utrennyaya, goddess of the morning star, sometimes depicted as a warrior goddess who protected men in battle

Celtic

- Agrona, reconstructed Proto-Celtic name for the river Aeron in Wales, and possibly the name of an associated war goddess
- Alaisiagae, a pair of goddesses worshiped in Roman Britain, with parallel Celtic and Germanic titles
- Andarta, Brittonic goddess theorized to be associated with victory, overcoming enemies, war
- Andraste, Gaulish warrior goddess
- Anann, Irish goddess of war, death, predicting death in battle, cattle, prosperity, and fertility
- Badb, Irish goddess of war who took the form of a crow; member of the Morrígan
- Bandua, Gallaecian God of War
- Belatucadros, war god worshipped by soldiers and equated with the Roman war god Mars
- Camulus, god of war of the Belgic Remi and British Trinovantes
- Catubodua, Gaulish goddess assumed to be associated with victory
- Cicolluis, Gaulish and Irish god associated with war
- Cocidius, Romano-British god associated with war, hunting and forests
- Macha, Irish goddess associated with war, horses, and sovereignty; member of the Morrígan

- The Morrígan, Irish triple goddess associated with sovereignty, prophecy, war, and death on the battlefield
- Neit, Irish god of war, husband of Nemain of Badb
- Nemain, Irish goddess of the frenzied havoc of war; member of the Morrígan
- Rudianos, Gaulish god of war
- Segomo, Gaulish god of war
- Teutates, British and Gaulish god of war and the tribe

Lusitanian

- Neto, god believed to be associated with war, death, and weaponry

Norse-Germanic

Continental Germanic

- Baduhenna, a western Frisii goddess of warfare
- Idis (Germanic)/itis/ides, the West Germanic cognates of North Germanic *dís*, they are connected with battle magic and fettering enemy armies
- Sandraudiga, goddess whose name may mean "she who dyes the sand red", suggesting she is a war deity or at least has a warrior aspect
- Týr, god of war, single combat, law, justice, and the thing, who later lost much of his religious importance and mythical role to the god Wōden
- Wōden, god associated with wisdom, poetry, war, victory, and death



Idise by Emil Doepler.

Norse

- Dís, a group of lesser goddesses who are sometimes connected with battle magic; valkyrie may be a kenning for them
- Freyja, goddess associated with love, beauty, fertility, gold, seiðr, war, and death
- Odin, god associated with wisdom, war, battle, and death
- Týr, god associated with law, justice, victory, and heroic glory
- Ullr, god associated with archery, skiing, bows, hunting, single combat, and glory
- Valkyries, choosers of the slain and connected to Odin, ruler of Valhalla; they may be the same as the dís above

Graeco-Roman

Greek / Hellenic

- Alala, spirit of the war cry
- Alke, spirit of courage and battle-strength
- Amphillogiai, goddesses of disputes
- Androktasai, spirits of battlefield slaughter

- Ares, the main Greek god of war, despised by all the city-states except Sparta
- Athena, goddess of wisdom, war strategy, and weaving, more beloved by ancient Greeks than Ares and tutelary deity of Athens, Sparta's rival
- Bia, spirit of force and compulsion
- Deimos, personification of terror
- Enyalius, god of war; in early periods apparently an epithet of Ares, they were differentiated later
- Enyo, goddess of war, sometimes appears to be identical to Eris
- Eris, goddess of discord and strife
- Hera, in the *Iliad* she has a martial character and fights (and wins) against Artemis; however, this warlike aspect of her appears nowhere else in the surviving corpus, suggesting it was dropped early on
- Homados, spirit of the din of battle
- Hysminai, female spirits of fighting and combat
- Ioke, spirit of onslaught, battle-tumult, and pursuit
- Keres, female spirits of violent or cruel death, including death in battle, by accident, murder, or ravaging disease
- Kratos, personification of strength and power
- Kydoimos, spirit of the din of battle
- Makhai, male spirits of fighting and combat
- Nike, spirit of victory
- Palioxis, spirit of backrush, flight, and retreat from battle
- Pallas, Titan god of war-craft and of the springtime campaign season
- Perses, the Titan of destruction
- Phobos, spirit of panic, fear, flight, and battlefield rout
- Phonoi, spirits of murder, killing, and slaughter
- Polemos, spirit of war
- Proioxis, spirit of onrush and battlefield pursuit
- Abobus, even Enel could not fight him

Roman

- Bellona, goddess of war
- Honos, god of chivalry, honor, and military justice
- Juno, has a consistent martial character and the patron goddess of Rome, the mother of Mars and Bellona
- Mars, god of war and agriculture, equivalent to Ares as far as being war gods; aside from this they have very little in common
- Minerva, goddess of wisdom, medicine, music, crafts, and war, while somewhat equivalent to the Greek Athena, the Romans did not emphasize her war aspect like the Greeks did
- Nerio, warrior goddess and personification of valor
- Victoria, personification of victory, equivalent to the Greek goddess Nike
- Virtus, god of bravery and military strength

Etruscan

- Laran, god of war.

- Menrva, goddess of war, art, wisdom, and health

Balkan

- Danubian Rider
- Sabazios
- Thracian Rider

Uralic

Hungarian

- Hadúr, god of war and the metalsmith of the gods

Asia

Turkic

- Kyzaghan, Turkic deity of war

Mongolian

- Dayisun Tngri

East Asia

Chinese

- Chiyou, god of war
- Di Qing, Star of Military Fortune, God of Valor
- Erlang Shen, a three-eyed warrior
- Guan Yu, Han dynasty general. God of loyalty, righteousness, and valor.
- Jinzha, marshal of the center altar
- Jiutian Xuannü, goddess of war, sex, and longevity [4]
- Li Jing, Guardian of Celestial Palace
- Muzha, marshal of the center altar
- Nezha
- Wang Shan, Song dynasty general. Primordial Lord-General of Heaven. Guardian of Celestial Palace
- Wen Qiong [5]
- Yue Fei
- Zhao Lang (Zhao Gongming), God of Military Fortune, Guardian of Celestial Palace, Protector of Households



Juno Sospita Statue holding a spear and shield.

Japanese

- Futsunushi, god of swords, martial arts, and conquest; god of the Mononobe clan
- Hachiman Daimyōjin, Shinto god of war (on land) and agriculture, divine protector of the Minamoto clan; mostly worshiped by samurai
- Sarutahiko, god of war and misogi; the deity who stands at the junction of Heaven and Earth; one of the main Kunitsukami; actively worshipped by Ueshiba Morihei
- Takemikazuchi, god of war, conquest, martial arts, sumo, and lightning; general of the Amatsukami; god of Kashima and Ujigami of Nakatomi clan
- Suwa Myōjin (Takeminakata-no-kami), god of valor and duty, protector of the Japanese religion
- Bishamonten, Buddhist god of war



Guan Yu, Chinese god of loyalty, righteousness, and valor.

Korean

- Yi Sun-sin, admiral of Joseon Dynasty. god of military, guardian of sea.
- Choe Yeong, general of Goryeo period, god of shamans, protector of humanity.
- Pagunseong, the star at the edge of the Big Dipper in Taoism, symbolizing swords.
- Baekmashinjang, god of war who rides a white horse.
- Dungapshinjang, god of war who has the ability of shapeshifting.
- Byeorakshinjang, god of war who uses thunder and lightning, sometimes punishes the evil.
- Damuncheonwang, Buddhist god of war.

Southeast Asia

Filipino

- Chacha': the Bontok god of warriors^[6]
- Hipag: the Ifugao spirits of war that give soldiers courage on the field of war but are ferocious and cannibalistic^[7]
- Apolaqui: the Pangasinense war god^[8]
- Aring Sinukūan: the Kapampangan solar deity governing war and death. He taught early humans metallurgy, woodcutting, rice cultivation, and warfare^[9]
- Apolake: the Tagalog god of the sun and warriors^[10]
- Sidapa: another Tagalog god of war, he specifically settles conflicts among mortals^[11]
- Doce Pares: From the Spanish "Twelve Pairs", they are a group of twelve young Tagalog men who went on a quest to retrieve the Golden Calf of Mount Banahaw, together with José Rizal as a culture hero. They are said to return as giants, bearing the Golden Calf, to aid mankind in war.^[12]
- Balangaw: a Hiligaynon and Bisaya god of the rainbow and war^[13]
- Inaginid: a Hiligaynon and Bisaya god of war.^[13]
- Makanduk: a Hiligaynon and Bisaya god of war.^[13]

- Lumalayag: the Tagbanwa spirits who challenge and fight the Salakap, spirits of plague and sickness.^[14]
- Talagbusao: the bloodthirsty Bukidnon god of war.^[7]
- Pamdiya: the Manobo gods who initiate and preside over war.^[7]
- Darago: the Bagobo god of warriors, whose consort is Mandarangan.^[15]
- Mandarangan: the Bagobo war deity married to Darago and resides at the top of Mount Apo. Human sacrifices made to him are rewarded with health, valour in war, and success in the pursuit of wealth.^[15]

Vietnamese

- Cao Lỗ, god of military innovations
- Độc Cước, the protector of coastal settlements. Legend has it that he split himself in two with his axe, each half guards coastal villages against sea ogres.
- Thần Đồng Cổ, the armored protector of the Lý dynasty
- Thánh Gióng, god of triumph over foreign invaders

South Asia

Hindu-Vedic-and-non-Vedic

- Kartikeya, god of war and victory
- Mangala, god of war and Mars
- Nirrti, goddess of strife
- Parvati, her forms Durga and Kali are known for fighting demons
- Shiva, several of his avatars are gods of destroying evil and avenging
- Vishnu, god of protection. Several of his avatars are associated with fighting and vanquishing evil.
- Indra, god of the weather, kingship, thunder, rains, electricity and the senses. He is also the king of Heaven.



Kartikeya, god of war by Surendra Nath Ganguly, 1913.

Manipuri

- Marjing, god of war, polo, horse and sports.
- Panthoibi, goddess of war, love, courage and longevity.

West Asia

Armenian

- Anahit, goddess of healing, fertility, wisdom, and water; in early periods associated with war

Canaanite

- Anat, goddess of war
- Astarte, goddess of sex and war, western Semitic version of the Mesopotamian Ishtar and Inanna
- Resheph, god of plague and war
- Tanit, main Carthaginian goddess whose functions included war and the moon

Hebrew

- Yahweh, originally a warrior god

Hittite

- Wurukatte, god of war

Hurrian

- Ašabi, a war god of Eblaite origin
- Nupatik, a god assumed to have warlike character
- Shaushka, goddess of love, war, and healing
- Ugur, a war god of Mesopotamian origin

Mesopotamian

- Adad, a weather god often portrayed as a warrior
- Erra, a god of war associated with Nergal, later syncretised with him
- Inanna, Sumerian goddess of love, sex and war
- Ishtar, Assyrian, Akkadian, and Babylonian counterpart of Inanna
- Nergal, god of war, the underworld, and pestilence
- Ninazu, a god of the underworld who could also be portrayed as a war deity
- Ningishzida, a god of the underworld who like his father Ninazu could be portrayed as a warrior
- Ninurta, warrior god
- Pabilsag, warrior god and husband of Ninisina
- Pap-nigin-gara, a war god syncretised with Ninurta
- Sebitti, group of minor Akkadian and Babylonian war gods
- Shara, minor Sumerian god of war
- Tishpak, a warrior god from Eshnunna
- Zababa, tutelary god of Kish and a war god

Nuristani

- Great Gish, god of war

Oceania

Polynesia

- 'Oro, god of war
- Rongo, Mangaian god of war and taro

Hawaiian

- Kū, god of war and birds
- Pele, goddess of fire, lightning, dance, volcanoes, and violence

Māori

- Maru, god of war and fresh water
- Tūmatauenga, god of war and human activities

Americas

North America

Great Plains

- Morning Star, O-pi-ri-kus by one spelling; the god of war in Pawnee mythology

Pacific Northwest

- Qamaits, Nuxálk warrior goddess
- Winalagalis, Kwakwaka'wakw god of war

Central American and the Caribbean

Aztec

- Patterns of War
- Huitzilopochtli, god of will, patron of war, fire, and sun; lord of the south
 - Mixcoatl, god of war and hunting
 - Tlaloc, god of thunder, rain, and earthquakes
 - Xipe-Totec, god of force, patron of war, agriculture, vegetation, diseases, seasons, rebirth, hunting, trades, and spring; lord of the east
 - Xiuhtecuhtli, god of fire

Mayan

- Tohil, god associated with fire, the sun, rain, mountains, and war

Voodoo

- Ogoun, loa who presides over fire, iron, hunting, politics, and war

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